

## **School Age Care Licensing Fact Sheet**

Today there are more organized activities that occurred during non-school hours specifically designed for school-age children: i.e. summer, before, and after school, evenings, weekends, etc. This fact sheet aims provide guidance regarding which programs are subject to licensing by the Department for Children and Families and which are not.

Vermont law (33 V.S.A. §§4209 and 3502) defines programs in need of licensure as:

- Any place operated as a business or service on a regular or continuous basis, whether for compensation or not, whose primary function is protection, care and supervision of children under sixteen years of age outside their homes for periods of less than 24 hours a day by a person other than the child's own parent, guardian or relative...
- By regulation, programs are designed to insure that children...are provided with wholesome growth and education experiences...

Licensure by the Department for Children and Families additionally offers:

- Opportunity for subsidized payment for children of families who are income eligible.
- Child abuse and criminal records checks for staff.
- DCF grant eligibility for equipment, college tuition reimbursement and program fees.
- In-service training opportunities.

Programs exempt from licensure include:

- Persons providing care for children of not more than two families.
- An establishment holding a license issued by the Department of Health or a person operating a program primarily for recreational or therapeutic purposes, unless the establishment or person provides services for the care, protection and supervision of children not incidental to its primary purpose.
- Programs operating 13 consecutive weeks or less providing a variety of activities including, but not limited to athletics, arts and crafts and socialization to children\*
- Programs which provide for the development of single skill-based activity such as skiing, pottery making, computer operations, tennis or musicianship\*
- Programs operating for no more than four hours one day a week or not more than two hours two days a week\*

Request School Age Licensing packets by calling 1-800-649-2642

Questions regarding licensure may be directed to CDF Child Care Field Specialists at 1-800-649-2642.

\* Definitions of recreation programs currently contained in legally promulgated regulations.